

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 18, 2009. Claims 1 and 3 to 9 are in the application, of which the following are independent: Claims 1, 5, 7, 8 and 9. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,409,401 (Petteruti). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested, as explained more fully below.

The claims are directed to image processing in which second image information is read from a storage device. The storage device also stores a plurality of level information for visualization. The second image information is read from the storage device based on a user instruction, and authentication information of the user is specified. A determination is made on a range of second image information to be printed based on the level of the authentication information within the plurality of level information.

In one example embodiment described at page 13 of the specification, when a user touches information display 206 at a position corresponding to a section which the user wishes to view in more detail, a screen requiring an authentication password is shown on the display. See Figure 4, step S402. The user inputs the authentication key, and if it is determined that the authentication key is valid, information corresponding to the level of the authentication key is shown on information display 206.

By virtue of the foregoing, it is ordinarily possible to tailor the range of content to be read from a storage device in accordance with the current user thereof, even though there may be sharing by several different users, each of which potentially has different authentication levels.

The applied patent to Petteruti is not seen to disclose or to suggest such an arrangement. In particular, the applied patent to Petteruti is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature that there is authentication information of the user who instructs reading of the second image information, and that there is a determination of the range of second information to be printed based on the level of the authentication information within the plurality of level information written on the storage device.

In maintaining the rejection over Petteruti, the Office Action cites to Petteruti's column 3, at lines 20 to 52. As understood by Applicants herein, that portion of Petteruti describes the encoding of data onto an RFID (radio frequency identifier) encoder. More precisely, if a portable printer receives a command to encode data onto the RFID encoder from a host terminal, the portable printer writes data including, for example, a product name, a description, a weight or an ID number. Further, Petteruti describes that written data is read, and that there is verification by confirming whether such data matches the written data.

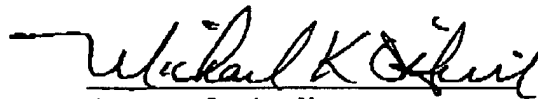
However, as understood by Applicants, since the portable printer reads the data to verify whether such data matches written data, the range of such data and the range of the written data are always the same.

It naturally follows, therefore, that Petteruti does not describe the determination of a range of image information to be printed, since the range in Petteruti is always the same. As a consequence, since Petteruti is not seen to determine the range of information to be printed, it is also not seen to disclose or to suggest that such a determination should be made based on the level of authentication information specified for a user that issues a user instruction for reading image information stored in the storage device, wherein the level of authentication is determined within a plurality of level information written on the storage device.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Petteruti does not provide an anticipatory disclosure of the subject matter claimed herein, and withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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